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Choice of Bush Disappointing

We can appreciate President Ford's desire to have his own team on the field, but we're disappointed by his choice of George Bush to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

It isn't that we doubt Bush's ability. It's just that we believe strongly that the CIA shouldn't be led by anyone with strong political ties.

Although the CIA role in the Watergate scandals was deliberately obscured, investigations eventually revealed that the espionage agency had, indeed, violated its charter and given aid to the administration in power.

Bush is even more "political" than previous CIA directors. He was a Republican member of the House from Texas. He was chairman of the Republican National Committee. In his unsuccessful bid for the Senate in 1970 he received money from an apparatus created by Richard Nixon and directed by H.R. Haldeman.

With that kind of partisan political background, Bush must expect to be viewed with suspicion when he goes before the Senate for hearings on confirmation.

We believe the chance exists that Bush, as the director of a powerful and ill-supervised agency would be tempted — with what he perceives as the best of motives — to give aid and comfort to administrations affiliated with the party to which he has given so much allegiance.

Unless Senate questioners are completely satisfied that Bush won't take his politics with him to CIA offices, his nomination should be rejected.